



STATE OF WASHINGTON

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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### IMPORTANT PROGRAM UPDATES FOR WSDA CERTIFIED ORGANIC OPERATORS

September 23, 2009

#### **High Nitrogen Liquid Fertilizers**

On February 20, 2009, the USDA National Organic Program issued a notice to organic certifiers regarding the use of liquid nitrogen fertilizers. The notice requires inspections of manufacturers of high nitrogen liquid fertilizers (nitrogen analysis greater than 3 percent) by October 1, 2009.

Effective October 1, 2009, no high nitrogen liquid fertilizers (N greater than 3%) may be used on certified organic land, unless you have written verification that the fertilizer manufacturer has undergone 3<sup>rd</sup> party inspection and the fertilizer manufacturer meets the following criteria:

- No evidence of fraud in formulation, including verifying the presence of all necessary infrastructure to produce the approved finished product. This includes: dry and liquid storage, all necessary conveyance (forklifts, trucks, piping, etc), finished product storage, and both the ingredient and finished product transportation infrastructure.
- Verification of no synthetic nitrogen equipment, tanks, or supplies within 100 yards of the facility that produces the organic approved inputs at any time of the year; and
- Verification that a successful audit was conducted comparing incoming materials with outgoing finished products and complete, detailed explanations for any deviations.

**In addition to a WSDA or OMRI listing, liquid fertilizers with greater than 3% nitrogen must also have verification an inspection has occurred and the operation meets the inspection criteria noted above. You must have this written verification prior to use of a liquid fertilizer with greater than 3% nitrogen on certified organic land.**

#### **Miles McEvoy Moving to the National Organic Program**

Miles McEvoy has been named Director of the National Organic Program after more than 20 years of service at the Organic Program. Miles is recognized in international circles as a leader in the organic food movement. He has presented at numerous international conferences and serves as president of the National Association of State Organic Programs. Beginning Oct. 1, he will lead the federal program that develops the rules for organic agriculture enforced by certification agencies around the country, including WSDA. WSDA is currently conducting a nationwide search to fill the position vacated by McEvoy. Les Eklund, the program's assistant manager, will lead the team on an interim basis.

Please feel free to contact our office at (360) 902-1805, or email: [organic@agr.wa.gov](mailto:organic@agr.wa.gov) if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Brenda Book  
Organic Certification Manager